Montana CSPD

*T*he OPI Special Education Endorsement Project was created to help school districts fill vacant special education teaching positions they have advertised statewide but been unable to fill with a fully certified special education teacher.

*T*he project is part of Montana's Comprehensive Systems of Personnel Development (CSPD) which is included under Montana Administrative Rule (ARM) number 10.16.3135 in the Montana State IDEA Plan and is regulated by Accreditation and Licensure Rule 10.55.707. School districts and cooperatives participating in the OPI Special Education Endorsement Project are subject to all administrative rules of the Montana Board of Public Education.

*M*ontana's CSPD works to ensure that all education personnel are adequately prepared and receive continuing education.

To Request an Application for the
OPI Special Education Endorsement Project
Please Contact:

Jolene Burdge
Project Coordinator
College of Education
Montana State University - Billings
1500 University Dr.
Billings, MT 59101
Phone: 406-657-2097
Fax: 406-657-2313
jburdge@msubillings.edu

See our Website at:

www.msubillings.edu/COE/ETP/OPI

OPI Special Education Endorsement Project

Assisting Special Education in Montana

Administered by
Montana State University - Billings
Federally Funded by the Montana
Office of Public Instruction under the
Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act (IDEA)

Overview of the OPI Special Education Endorsement Project

Qualifications

♦ The school district or special education cooperative has advertised a special education vacancy statewide, including on the OPI website, and had no special education endorsed applicants apply.

♦ The applicant has been offered a contract for an advertised special education teaching position for which no special education endorsed applicants applied.

♦ The applicant must have a Class 1 or Class 2 Montana Teaching Certificate. Class 5 alternative licenses are not eligible.

♦ The applicant must agree to complete their special education endorsement within 3 years from their project acceptance date. This includes one semester of student teaching in their own classroom. These requirements are mandated by 10.55.707 and are not negotiable.

♦ The applicant must commit to teach special education in Montana for a minimum of 2 years following completion of their special education endorsement.

♦ The employing school district must provide a special education professional, who is not the applicant's supervisor, to serve as a mentor.

Documents to Submit

1) Completed application form with all required signatures. *see back cover*.

2) Letter from school district or special education cooperative verifying:

   A. the district advertised a special education vacancy statewide (including on the OPI website) and had no special education endorsed applicants apply;
   B. the teacher has a Class 1 or Class 2 teaching certificate and will be offered the position. **A copy of the position advertisement must be included with the letter.**

3) Copy of Montana Teaching Certificate.

4) Copies of transcripts from ALL universities the applicant has attended. Transcripts must show the semester of student teaching and degree (s).

5) Plan of Study signed by their advisor at the university they will attend.

Stipend Information

Stipends are available to help offset the cost of tuition and fees and are dispersed based on the number of credits completed during a semester. Stipends do not cover all expenses.

Participating Colleges

Carroll College
Dr. Bob Stansberry
406-447-4352
rstansbe@carroll.edu

University of Great Falls
Ms. Angel Turoski
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Montana State Univ.-Billings
Dr. Susan Gregory
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University of Montana
Dr. Trent Atkins
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Dr. Morgen Alwell
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University of Montana-Western
Dr. Vikki Howard
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